

Councilwomen Bonner and Cartright Honor New Eagle Scouts from Troop 204 in Miller Place

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Farmingville, NY - On Saturday, January 18, Councilwomen Jane Bonner (second from left) and Valerie M. Cartright (second from right) attended the Court of Honor ceremony for three members of Boy Scout Troop 204 in Miller Place. The event was held at the Miller Place High School. Those honored were (left to right) Nicholas Alexander O'Mara, Nicholas Anthony Gabriele, Jr. and Nicholas Joseph Castelli. All attained the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest in the Boy Scouts of America.

"Eagle Scouts are the leaders of tomorrow, and from what I can tell about this outstanding group of youngsters, our future will be in good hands," said Councilwoman Bonner. "The work that they do, whether it's an Eagle project, volunteering or just being mentors and role models to other kids, it sets a great example for their peers to follow. I congratulate them and their parents on this achievement, and say thank you for their service to our community."

Councilwoman Valerie M. Cartright said, "I salute each of these young men for the hard work and dedication demonstrated throughout their journeys to attain the rank of Eagle Scout. Nicholas O'Mara, Nicholas Gabriele, and Nicholas Castelli each have impressive resumes and completed meaningful projects. I am thankful to them and their families for their proven commitment to be of service to our community. I am very proud of Nicholas O'Mara's contribution to Council District 1 through the installation of chimney swift towers at West Meadow Beach. His efforts have led to additional wildlife habitat by providing a safe nesting area for these endangered birds."

To become an Eagle Scout, one must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, demonstrate leadership, and perform an approved community service project. The projects that these scouts completed are:

- Nicholas Alexander O'Mara constructed three Chimney Swift Towers at West Meadow Beach.
- Nicholas Anthony Gabriele, Jr. planted trees and shrubs at the historic Miller House.
- Nicholas Joseph Castelli constructed two display cases honoring the military at the First Baptist Church in Patchogue.

Since the first Eagle Scout Award was presented in 1912, no more than four percent of all Scouts have attained the

Eagle Scout rank.

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